

Antarctica **must** contact the RPSNZ Travel office in Christchurch (telephone 0-800-358-8139) at least three days before their scheduled date to fly to Antarctica (but preferably earlier). Flight schedules to Antarctica often change, and it is advantageous to both you and the RPSNZ Travel office if regular contact is made during the period of leave.

The U.S. Antarctic Program takes advantage of significantly lower rates on airline tickets that are purchased in advance and available for return travel less than one year from the first date of travel. The program requires its travelers to cover the extra expenses of taking vacation en route. If you elect to vacation in New Zealand, and thus extend your stay beyond the maximum stay allowed, the fare difference could be significant.

If returning from McMurdo, your Visitor Permit received in Auckland on your way to Antarctica is valid until the date shown on the stamp in your passport. If the permit has already expired, and you plan on being in New Zealand longer than two weeks, you must contact the New Zealand Immigration Service within 14 calendar days to extend your permit. If you intend to vacation in New Zealand, and your current permit will expire while you are in New Zealand, apply for an extension in Christchurch **before** your current permit expires. If you have a valid outbound ticket and sufficient funds for your stay, the New Zealand Immigration Service in Christchurch will issue a temporary permit. The RPSNZ Travel Office will assist you in obtaining an extension to your visitor permit by providing a letter to accompany the application form. Ultimately, you are the one responsible for applying for the permit.

TRAVEL THROUGH NEW ZEALAND

Transfer at Auckland. Auckland International Airport is the port of entry into New Zealand for most participants. There, you process through Health, Immigration, and Customs checks. Have your passport, RPSC 9-month visa letter (on company letterhead) in your ticket jacket, airline ticket, and New Zealand Customs declaration form handy. If you are hand-carrying high-tech and/or scientific equipment into New Zealand, be prepared to show your New Zealand Customs "Temporary Importation Into New Zealand" form to Customs officials. In the baggage claim area, carts are available for your use at no cost. After getting all your checked baggage, you are directed to Customs. Then you can recheck your baggage for the domestic flight to Christchurch. This can be done while you are still at the international terminal.

The domestic terminal is 900 meters (1000 yards) from the international one. You can take a free bus or walk between the two.

Flight to Christchurch. The flight from Auckland to Christchurch takes approximately 90 minutes. If your departure from Auckland to Christchurch is delayed or changed from that scheduled (for example, your flight from the States was delayed and you missed your connecting flight) rearrange your onward travel at the appropriate airline counter. Call the RPSNZ Travel office in Christchurch toll free (0.800.358.8139) and state the change. If you are in a group of antarctic travelers, elect one member to call with information about everyone in the group.

Meet and greet. You will be met at the Christchurch Airport Arrival Lounge by an RPSC (NZ) representative, wearing a bright red jacket/vest, holding a red clipboard displaying the USAP logo. Look for this representative and identify yourself.

The representative will give you documents that list your accommodations, orientation schedule, the date and time of your ECW clothing fitting, your scheduled flight to Antarctica, important phone numbers, computer access, travel fund, and other critical information. Read these documents thoroughly.

Your airline tickets/e-ticket receipts (international and domestic) and any unused excess baggage coupons will be collected. These will be secured and given back to you when you return from Antarctica. Without your tickets the Christchurch office will not be able to revalidate your ticket and complete your travel plans.



Travel Service	Telephone:	1.800.390.1449 (from the U.S.)
RPSNZ Limited	Toll-free:	0800.358.8139 (within New Zealand)
38 Orchard Road	Fax:	011.643.357.8850 (from the U.S.)
Christchurch	E-mail:	chctravel@iac.org.nz
New Zealand	Contact:	Travel Services Representative

NSF in New Zealand. A National Science Foundation office, in the International Antarctic Center near Christchurch International Airport, maintains a working relationship with the host country and supports program activities in Antarctica. The NSF contractor arranges for accommodations in Christchurch, manifests for travel to Antarctica, issues ECW clothing, and provides other support. Telephone 03.358.8138 (from USA: 1.800.390.1449), Fax 03.358.9060 (from USA: 011.643.358.9060).

U.S.-N.Z. Antarctic coordination. New Zealand is one of the original Antarctic Treaty signatory nations and has operated an Antarctic Program since the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year. Cooperation with the U.S. is extensive in both science and logistics. U.S. investigators planning cooperative arrangements should plan directly with N.Z. investigators or research institutions rather than official N.Z. government units except when approved in advance by a U.S. Antarctic Program official.

Accommodations. Hotel/motel reservations in Christchurch are booked in advance by RPSC for all participants for the length of their stay in Christchurch. This method enables the Christchurch office to find you should there be a change in date or time for your departure to Antarctica.

If you have a specific hotel request, you will have indicated this on the travel request worksheet that you submitted to the DSG in Denver. The DSG will have forwarded this request to the Christchurch office. Every endeavor will be made to book the hotel of your choice; however, it may be necessary to book alternative accommodation if rooms are not available. If you plan to stay with friends in Christchurch, please advise the DSG of the contact telephone number in Christchurch where messages can be left for you. Flight schedules change often and it is critical that the office knows how to contact you with updates.

Hotel operators in New Zealand expect advance bookings to be honored. If you are not satisfied with your accommodations, please advise RPSNZ Travel, which will arrange for cancellation of the original reservation as well as for alternate accommodation for you. Do not change your reservations without prior approval of the change by the RPSNZ Travel office. If you do not honor your hotel reservation, expect to be billed by the hotel for the first night of the booking. With the high level of tourism in New Zealand, accommodations in summer are sometimes difficult to obtain, and disregard of the arrangements made for you will jeopardize our ability to provide accommodations in the future.

Always lock your hotel/motel room, and take precautions to safeguard your money and valuables. Hotel/motel bills, telephone charges, etc., should be settled the night before your departure from Christchurch.

E-mail and Fax. Christchurch offers a variety of options for sending e-mail and fax services at reasonable rates.

Long distance calls. Most New Zealand hotels permit direct dialing of long distance calls. Long distance calls also may be placed using a pre-paid phone card, or U.S. calling cards from carriers such as MCI and AT&T. New Zealand phone cards can be purchased at the airport and at various shops throughout the country.

Medical care. If you need medical care in New Zealand, please contact the RPSNZ Medical Coordinator, who will assist you with arranging medical/dental appointments. There will be a charge for your visit to the doctor/dentist. See Chapter 2: Health Insurance.

Public transportation. An extensive network of bus routes serves Christchurch, Lyttelton, the airport and U.S. Antarctic Program offices. There is frequent bus service between the airport, U.S. Antarctic Program offices, Cathedral Square in downtown Christchurch and local hotels. Taxi and shuttle details are provided in your arrival documents.



Car rental and insurance. If you rent a car, be sure you know New Zealand traffic regulations and have sufficient insurance. A booklet on traffic laws called the Road Code is available at auto rental agencies. Traffic regulations are strictly enforced. Driving is on the left side of the road and requires strict attention. A driving permit is not required if you can provide a valid U.S. driver's license.

Extreme Cold Weather Clothing Issue

Extreme cold weather (ECW) clothing and accessories will be provided to you at no charge at the Christchurch Clothing Distribution Center (CDC). These items are to be returned to the CDC immediately upon your return from Antarctica. Clothing issued is the property of the National Science Foundation. Participants are responsible for all issued clothing.

The issued ECW clothing is functional, sturdy, and cost effective. It includes special items of outer clothing required for the antarctic climate, such as parkas and boots. The majority of clothing is in men's sizes but will fit both men and women. However, to ensure an acceptable fit, be sure to provide accurate measurements on the Personal Information Form (submitted with your medical information).

It is important that you **try on all** of the ECW clothing (including boots) at your fitting session. Any sizing errors will be corrected at that time. The type and amount of clothing you receive depends on where you work and what your job title entails. Most, but not all, of the ECW clothing is mandatory. If you are new to the program it is best to take all the clothing issued to you. There will be no additional clothing issued. If items are lost in Antarctica, a limited amount of resupply ECW clothing is available on station, however, the resupply stock is older and may not be an exact replacement for the lost/worn item.

The clothing issued to you is **U.S. Government property**. You are responsible for it and required to return it in New Zealand or South America during redeployment. Some issued clothing, especially parkas, are subject to theft, and special attention should be taken to prevent loss. Abnormal damages or unreported loss of clothing will result in your being billed for repair or replacement costs. Any theft or loss should be reported immediately to the NSF Representative,

Antarctica, or the station manager. It is illegal for you to mail government property from Antarctica. It is illegal for individuals to buy or sell government property including clothing.

Extreme Cold Weather (ECW) Clothing

The clothing issued will vary depending on station, job and season. Here is a typical listing of clothing for personnel working outside in the summer at McMurdo Station. **Items in bold must be worn on the flight to and from Antarctica and during flights within Antarctica by all personnel regardless of job, station or season.**

Bag, Clothing, Orange (2 ea)
Balaclava, Polar Fleece (1 ea)
Boot, Rubber, Thermal (1 pr)
 Bottle, Water (1 ea)
 Cap, Yazoo (1 ea)
 Carhartt (1 set)
 Carhartt, Parka, Siberian Arctic (1 ea)
Gaiter, Neck, Polar Fleece (1 ea)
 Glove, Leather,
 w/ Thinsulate Lining (4 pr)
 Goggles, Snow, Smith (1 pr)
Jacket, Polar Fleece (1 ea)
 Liner, Glove, Polypro (2 pr)
Mitten, Furback, Gauntlet (1 pr)
 Mitten, Kodalite (1 pr)

Mitten, Windproof, w/ Pile (1 set)
Pants, Polar Fleece (1 pr)
Pants, Wind, Bibbed (1 pr)
Parka, Red (1 ea)
Sock, Tube, Wool (6 pr, 1 pr worn)
 Underdrawers, Expedition (1 pr)
Underdrawers, Thermax (1 pr)
 Undershirts, Expedition (1 ea)
Undershirts, Thermax (1 ea)

OPTIONAL
 Boots, Polar, FDX
 Jacket, Wind
 Trouser, Field

To McMurdo Station

Report for your flight at the time given to you by RPSNZ Travel Services. If you are scheduled for an early morning departure, you should order a taxicab or shuttle the night before. Allow at least 20 minutes to drive from Christchurch city center to the International Antarctic Center.

As part of the check-in process you will be given time to change into your ECW gear, pack your carry-on bag and store any other baggage that you will not need in Antarctica in the CDC secured storage room.

Notify the RPSC Representative or the agent of any accompanied cargo or bag-

gage that exceeds your authorized weight. Remember that authorization for excess baggage must be obtained in advance from RPSC. Failure to do so may force loading this cargo on a later plane. This also applies to your northbound return. See Chapter 3: How and What to Pack.

Please note the list of ECW clothing on the previous page. Items listed in bold must be worn on all flights to and from Antarctica and during flights within Antarctica.

Your passport should be ready for inspection by New Zealand Customs.

You will be issued an Antarctic Departure Card, which you are required to complete before moving through to the Antarctic Passenger Terminal (APT). Your passport will be checked and the Departure Card taken from you at check-in at the APT.

After dressing for your flight and completing your Antarctic Departure Card, you may walk through to the APT for official check-in and weigh-in. This is commonly known as 'bag drag.'

After being checked through the APT, you will no longer have access to your baggage except the carry-on piece. You may not leave the area unless authorized by officials. Transportation to the plane is provided. Personnel who, in the judgment of the airplane crew, are intoxicated will not be permitted to board airplanes, either en route to or from Antarctica or when travelling within the Antarctic continent.

You will fly between New Zealand and Antarctica on an NSF or military-owned LC-130 Hercules turboprop airplane operated by the U.S. Air Force 109th Airlift Wing, on an NSF-chartered C-17 plane (jet powered) operated by the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command, or a Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130. The LC-130 flight takes about 8 hours; the C-130 flight, about 7 hours; the C-17 flight, about 5 hours.

These cargo and troop planes are not designed primarily for passenger convenience. Sack lunches are served during the flights at no cost to the traveler. Toilets are provided on all planes, but the facilities can be awkward.

On the plane, you will hear an announcement that you are about to arrive at McMurdo Station. The air crew will ask you and your fellow travelers to pick up all the trash and put it in containers. Then, recalling the clothing instructions, organize yourself and your gear. Shortly, you will be instructed to fasten your seat belt.

The weather in Antarctica is likely to be clear, cold, and very bright. After the plane has stopped, gather your possessions, zip up your parka, and put on sunglasses and gloves. An air service representative will board and brief you about disembarking.

On arrival at McMurdo Station, you will be given an in-brief and instructions about collecting baggage and about your housing. Generally, your checked baggage will be ready for you at the Movement Control Center (MCC) in McMurdo 2 hours or so after you arrive. For larger groups, RPSC often sends a vehicle to the MCC to pick up and distribute baggage.

Return to New Zealand

Grantees. At least 10 days prior to your planned departure from Antarctica, advise the NSF Passenger Coordinator in the Chalet or the Science Coordinator at South Pole of your intended departure date from Antarctica and of any stopover en route to your airport of departure. The staff will in turn coordinate your requirements with the Raytheon Polar Services (NZ) Limited representative in Christchurch. You should also ensure that your retrograde cargo is ready for transport. See Retrograde Cargo in Chapter 4.

RPSC Employees. Weeks before redeployment begins employees are given check-out instructions and personal flight request information is collected. Prior to completion of your contract, your supervisor will schedule you on one of the return flights from McMurdo to

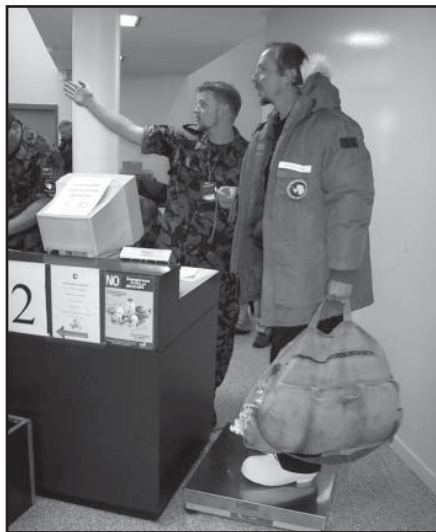
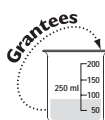


Photo by Kris Kuenning

A U.S. Antarctic Program participant and his carry-on baggage is weighed at the Antarctic Passenger Terminal in Christchurch, New Zealand.



Christchurch. You will also be given a travel fund for your redeployment from Antarctica.

NOTE: Redeployment travel is coordinated by the Christchurch Travel Office.

Excess Baggage. Remember that prior approval for excess baggage is required for anything over the standard limits (see Chapter 3) and that separate approvals are required for both south and northbound travel. If you check-in for a northbound flight in McMurdo without the necessary excess baggage approvals, you will be required to mail that excess through the U.S. Post Office at McMurdo Station.

Be sure to carry your **passport on your person** and not in your handcarry bag. You may not have access to your handcarry prior to passing through customs.

Upon your return to Christchurch from McMurdo, you will be met in the terminal building customs area by personnel from the Raytheon Polar Services Company (NZ) Representative. Transportation will be provided to the CDC so that you may return your cold weather clothing issue and retrieve personal belongings stored in the security room. You will be given information about your accommodations and travel before departing for your hotel by taxi or shuttle bus. Your airline tickets will be attached to your arrival documentation at the CDC or available from the Travel Office.

Before leaving the Auckland or Christchurch airport on an international flight, you are required to pay a departure fee. In 2005, the fee was NZ\$25.

NOTE: Remember that your APO privilege to mail boxes at U.S. rates expires in 10 days. See Chapter 3: APO Privileges.

TRAVEL THROUGH CHILE

Over the years the U.S. has staged its Antarctic Peninsula operations, which depend mostly on ship transport and research cruises, through both Chile and Argentina. Any deployments through Argentina, or other countries, are coordinated in advance directly with the NSF and the RPSC Supervisor of Logistics, Peninsula. In Chile, the U.S. Antarctic Program has contracted with Agencias Universales S.A. (AGUNSA) to provide support and manage local offices.

Chile and the U.S. cooperate frequently in Antarctica. Chile is an Antarctic Treaty nation, and it has year-round stations along the Antarctic Peninsula. Argentina and the U.S. have also cooperated in a number of antarctic projects. Argentina is also an Antarctic Treaty nation, and it has a year-round research program that centers on the Antarctic Peninsula.

While Spanish is the predominant language, English is spoken by many of its citizens, including agents employed by RPSC to assist you in your passage. A simple Spanish phrase book may prove helpful.

Health. If you require health care on your travel through Chile, contact the local AGUNSA office for assistance in making appointments. Be prepared to pay for services at your appointment. See Chapter 2 on health insurance.

The two cities that you will pass through in Chile are **Santiago** (population: 5 million), the capital, where your plane from the U.S. will land, and **Punta Arenas** (population: 150,000), from where you will depart for Antarctica. In the austral summer Santiago is hot, and the weather in Punta Arenas can vary from cold to warm. Chile's food and lodging costs are about the same as or less than in the U.S.

Arrival and departure taxes. U.S. passport holders who are first-time visitors to Chile will be required to pay an international arrival tax of US\$100 upon arrival in Santiago, Chile. **This can only be paid in U.S. dollars; they do not accept credit cards. Please bring at least US\$100 cash with you.** This arrival tax payment is good for the life of your passport and should be secured in your passport. RPSC employees who go through the Denver office for Orientation prior to departure will receive \$100 at that time to cover the Entrance/Tourist tax.

On arrival at the Santiago airport you will be met by an AGUNSA agent, who will assist you through customs and help you to make the onward domestic flight to Punta Arenas. The agent